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(54) Title: HOOKWORM PLATELET INHIBITOR

(57) Abstract

An inhibitor of platelet aggregation and adhesion is purified and characterized from soluble protein extracts of adult Ancylostoma caninum hookworms, and then cloned and sequenced. The inhibitor blocks platelet aggregation in response to a variety of agonists, interfering with the binding of at least one cell surface integrin with its respective ligand. Embodiments include inhibition of the binding of fibrinogen to cell surface integrin GPIIb/IIIa ($\alpha_{\text{IIb}}\beta_3$) and inhibition of the binding of collagen to cell surface integrin GPIa/IIa ($\alpha_2\beta_1$). Medical and veterinary pharmaceutical and immunological compositions containing the platelet inhibitor, and methods of using it, are described.



